



# House Select Committee on Homeland Security Democrats

**JIM TURNER, Ranking Member**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*At a joint hearing of the Subcommittee on Intelligence and Counterterrorism and the Subcommittee on Infrastructure and Border Security, "The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2005," Congressman Jim Turner, Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, made the following statement.*

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Welcome General Libutti. This is your first appearance before our Committee. We welcome you and thank you and your staff for what you do everyday to keep America safe.

One of the key purposes for establishing the Department of Homeland Security was to create a focal point for intelligence analysis so our government did a better job of "connecting the dots." After a lengthy debate in Congress, the Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Directorate - or "IAIP" - was charged with this, and many other important functions.

Since the passage of the Homeland Security Act, however, the President decided to assign the key task of assembling, analyzing, and assessing the intelligence related to the terrorist threat to a new entity – the Terrorist Threat Integration Center. This has led to confusion about a core mission of the IAIP Directorate. An important issue that needs to be explained is how IAIP has evolved in light of the Terrorist Threat Integration Center's creation. We need to know whether the Directorate's intelligence-related duties and responsibilities have been clearly defined, and whether it has an effective, functional relationship with the Terrorist Threat Integration Center and other components of the intelligence community.

In addition to the intelligence analysis function, IAIP remains a critical part of the Department and a key component of the government's homeland security efforts. Among its duties are identifying and assessing threats, mapping those threats against our vulnerabilities, issuing timely warnings, and serving as a conduit of information to and from state and local law enforcement.

As I've mentioned before, IAIP is the "nerve" center of the new Department. The success of the Department hinges to a great degree on how effectively IAIP performs.

One of my key concerns is IAIP's progress on developing a comprehensive threat and vulnerability assessment. Assistant Secretary Liscouski testified to this Committee that the

assessment could take up to five years. Finishing this task as soon as possible is critical because, right now, the Administration and Congress are driving the homeland security budget without a roadmap. I hope we will hear today on how IAIP is progressing on this vital assignment and when we can expect it to be completed.

I am also concerned about progress in developing an integrated terrorist watch list. The Terrorist Screening Center was created last year to consolidate the multiple terrorist watch lists into an integrated database that could provide information to homeland security official across the country in real time. At the beginning of this year we were told that the task of consolidating the watch lists would be done by March. According to the Department's Strategic Plan released last week, however, the complete consolidation will not be completed until the end of this year. Last week, a senior DHS official suggested that fully integrating the watch lists may not be necessary. This delay and confusion is simply unacceptable two and a half years after 9/11. Our country cannot continue to rely on a patchwork of watch lists to keep track of terrorists.

Despite an overall increase in the Directorate's budget request for next fiscal year, the request for "Assessments and Evaluations" decreases by 8 million dollars compared with the current year level. I understand that this is due to the elimination of the Directorate's funding to support the Terrorist Threat Integration Center and the Terrorist Screening Center. I would like you to address this issue. I worry that ending the Department's budgetary support for these organizations will further distance them from the Department and thereby reduce the effectiveness of the Department in fulfilling its core mission of integrating and sharing terrorist information.

There are other areas I also would like to hear from you about today, including what the Directorate is doing to integrate its new hires and detailees into its work, how well Intelligence Community agencies are providing critical data to the Directorate, and what concrete steps the Directorate is taking to protect cyberspace.

I think I speak for all of my colleagues in saying that the Committee is dedicated to ensuring that the Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Directorate is successful and has the necessary resources to do its job. There is much left to be done to get this organization on its feet and we look forward to working with you on this important project.